

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for producing carpet squares with carpet pile and a felt back side, including:

- making a semi-finished product including the carpet pile by tufting, weaving, bonding, felting or other method known in the art;
- selecting felt for forming the felt back side;
- back side coating the semi-finished product with the felt for forming a carpet web;
- punching the carpet web into desired shapes and dimensions for the carpet squares;

characterised in that

- surface coating the felt back side of the carpet web with a curable polymer; and
- curing the polymer for dimensional stabilisation and rigidifying the carpet web before punching.

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that bonding the back side coating of the semi-finished product with the felt back side occurs by glueing.

3. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterised in that the semi-finished product or part thereof and the felt back side comprises the same material, preferably a polymer.

4. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~2~~ ~~or~~ 3, characterised in that curable polymer is thermo-hardening and

water-based latex as liquid, crème or powder, and that the coating is made by spraying, foaming, smearing on or other suited method of application.

5. (Original) Method according to claim 4, characterised in that the curing is performed at a temperature between 60 and 160°C and preferably about 100°C, and that heating, IR or UV irradiation is used for curing the curable polymer.

6. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, characterised in that the felt back side has a gram weight between 200 and 1500 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and preferably over 800 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

7. (Original) Method according to claim 6, characterised in that the curable polymer is applied to the felt back side in an amount between 50 and 500 g dry matter/m<sup>2</sup>, and preferably less than 100 g dry matter/m<sup>2</sup>.

8. (Original) A plant for producing carpet squares with a carpet pile and a felt back side including

- a back side coating unit for coating a semi-finished product including a carpet pile with felt back side for forming a carpet web;
- a punching unit for punching the carpet web into desired shapes and dimensions for the carpet squares;

characterised in that between the back side coating unit and the punching unit there are provided:

- an application unit for surface coating of the felt back side with a curable polymer;

- a curing unit for curing the polymer for dimensional stabilisation and rigidifying the carpet web before punching.

9. (Original) Plant according to claim 8, characterised in that the back side coating unit includes a storage and a unwinding unit for previously formed and coiled semi-finished products, and a coiling unit for the formed carpet web, and that the application unit, the curing unit and the punching unit constitute an independent part of a plant.

10. (Original) A carpet square punched out from a carpet web having a back side felt coated carpet pile, characterised in that the felt back side has a surface coating of a cured polymer that contributes to dimensional stabilisation and rigidifying the carpet pile.

11. (Original) Carpet square according to claim 10, characterised in that the felt back side has a gram weight between 200 and 1500 g/m<sup>2</sup>, preferably more than 800 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and that the coating is applied to the felt back side in an amount of between 50 and 500 g dry matter/m<sup>2</sup>, and preferably less than 100 g dry matter/m<sup>2</sup>.